

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 9190



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE IRENE GAY F. SAULOG**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

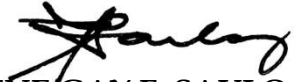
Education is undeniably accorded paramount importance in the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Indeed, as a matter of policy, the Constitution mandates the State to place education at the forefront of its priorities.¹ This commitment is echoed in Article XIV, Section 2 (1) which underscores the State's responsibility to establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the Filipino people.

In light of these fundamental policies, this proposed measure aspires to elevate the caliber of education, especially within the public school system. Its primary objective is to empower our dedicated public school teachers by providing government subsidies for their pursuit of postgraduate studies. This initiative represents an astute investment in our country's human capital strategically positioned to yield substantial returns in the form of a highly educated populace.

The ripple effect of enhancing and improving our public school system will undoubtedly extend the ladder of opportunity to those who need it most—the marginalized and underprivileged who heavily rely on the State's provision of free public education. This initiative ensures that they will receive quality education—one that equips them with the necessary tools to craft a brighter future.

¹ Article II, Section 17, 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.

It is our firm belief that by subsidizing free and high-quality public education, the State is not only fulfilling its constitutional mandate but is also strategically positioning itself to wage a more effective battle against poverty in our country. This measure serves as a testament to our unwavering commitment and dedication to promoting a society where every Filipino, regardless of their economic background, has the opportunity to thrive through the transformative power of education.



HON. IRENE GAY F. SAULOG
Kalinga Party-list

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AN ACT
GRANTING SCHOLARSHIP TO ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Continuing Education for Public School Teachers Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to give priority to education as a means of cultivating patriotism and nationalism, attaining social progress, and promoting total human liberation and development. In the same vein, the State shall also establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education.

SEC. 3. *Continuing Education Program.* – In pursuit of elevating the quality of education in the country, all teachers in the public school system are encouraged to

pursue postgraduate studies. To facilitate this, the Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall implement and administer a scholarship program designed to enable public school teachers to pursue further studies.

SEC. 4. *Coverage.* – All teachers in the public school system (elementary, secondary, and collegiate level) are eligible to avail of the scholarship program.

SEC. 5. *Scope of the Scholarship Grant.* – The scholarship grant for public school teachers shall fully cover the tuition fees for postgraduate studies, whether pursuing a master's or a doctorate degree, which can be used at any state college or university in the Philippines. Furthermore, under the scholarship program, a teacher may pursue a maximum of two postgraduate degrees within a five-year period.

Additionally, a stipend of P20,000 per semester will be provided under the scholarship program to assist teachers in covering various school-related expenses. Throughout the duration of the scholarship program's implementation, the Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) may adjust the stipend accordingly to account for inflation.

SEC. 6. *Service Requirement.* – After availing of the scholarship grant, a teacher is required to continue serving in the public school system for a minimum period of 2 years. This commitment begins from the last month of the semester in which the teacher availed of the scholarship grant and applies to the most recent scholarship grant utilized by the teacher.

SEC. 7. *Funding.* – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations allocated to the Department of Education

(DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as specified in the current General Appropriations Act (GAA). Subsequently, the necessary budget for the ongoing enforcement of this Act will be incorporated into the annual GAA.

SEC 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act within a period of sixty (60) days from the approval hereof.

SEC 9. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,